

## CLAIMS

What is claimed is:

1. In a digital content delivery service system, a method of sending and validating/auditing delivery of e-media, comprising the steps of:

5 obtaining/receiving e-media of a sender/user wherein the sender/user has indicated a requested type of delivery of the e-media to a client/receiving party, wherein the client is a software application;

accessing an account of the sender/user to obtain sender/user information;

10 sending the e-media to the client/receiving party; and

receiving a validation/audit of the requested type of delivery upon receipt/consumption of the e-media by the client/receiving party.

2. The method of claim 1 wherein the validation/audit of the requested type of delivery is attended by the client/receiving party.

15 3. The method of claim 2 wherein the validation/audit includes at least one of:  
a biometric signature sent by the client/receiving party; and  
a user's encrypted/unencrypted Unique IDentifier entered by the client/consumer/receiving party to indicate that the e-media has been received/consumed.

20 4. The method of claim 1 wherein the validation/audit of the requested type of delivery is unattended by the client/receiving party.

5. The method of claim 1 wherein the e-media is received/consumed by printing.

6. The method of claim 1 wherein the e-media is received/consumed other than by printing.

25 7. A computer-readable medium having computer-executable instructions for sending and validating/auditing delivery of e-media by a digital content delivery service system, the computer-executable instructions including the steps of:

obtaining/receiving e-media of a sender/user wherein the sender/user has indicated a requested type of delivery of the e-media to a client/receiving party, wherein the client is a software application;

30 accessing an account of the sender/user to obtain sender/user information;

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sending the e-media to the client/receiving party; and  
receiving a validation/audit of the requested type of delivery upon  
receipt/consumption of the e-media by the client/receiving party.

5 8. The computer-readable medium of claim 7 wherein the validation/audit of the  
requested type of delivery is attended by the client/receiving party.

9. The computer-readable medium of claim 8 wherein the validation/audit  
includes at least one of:

10 a biometric signature sent by the client/receiving party; and  
a user's encrypted/unencrypted Unique IDentifier entered by the  
client/consumer/receiving party to indicate that the e-media has been  
received/consumed.

10. The computer-readable medium of claim 7 wherein the validation/audit of the  
requested type of delivery is unattended by the client/receiving party.

15 11. The computer-readable medium of claim 7 wherein the e-media is  
received/consumed by printing.

12. The computer-readable medium of claim 7 wherein the e-media is  
received/consumed other than by printing.

13. A digital content delivery service system for sending and validating/auditing  
delivery of e-media, comprising:

20 an interface e-media transfer unit, arranged to communicate with at  
least one of: a plurality of senders/users and other digital content delivery  
service system/systems and coupled to a sender/user account storage unit and  
a validation/audit processing unit, programmed to obtain/receive e-media of a  
sender/user wherein the sender/user has indicated a requested type of delivery  
25 of the e-media to a client/receiving party and to store sender/user information  
and requested type of delivery in the sender/user account storage unit;

the validation/audit processing unit, coupled to the interface e-media  
transfer unit and to the sender/user account storage unit, for obtaining  
sender/user information and the requested type of delivery from the  
30 sender/user account storage unit, sending the e-media to the client/receiving  
party/other digital content delivery service system/systems, and obtaining  
validation/audit information for receipt/consumption of the e-media; and

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the sender/user account storage unit, coupled to the interface e-media transfer unit and the validation/audit processing unit, for storing sender/user information and a requested type of delivery of e-media.

14. The digital content delivery service system of claim 13 wherein at least part of the validation/audit information of the requested type of delivery is provided by the client/receiving party.

15. The digital content delivery service system of claim 14 wherein the validation/audit information includes at least one of:

a biometric signature sent by the client/receiving party; and  
a user's encrypted/unencrypted Unique Identifier entered by the client/consumer/receiving party to indicate receipt/consumption of the e-media.

16. The digital content delivery service system of claim 13 wherein the validation/audit information of the requested type of delivery is automatically provided by a device/devices of the client/receiving party.

17. The digital content delivery service system of claim 13 wherein the receipt/consumption of the e-media is achieved by printing.

18. The digital content delivery service system of claim 13 wherein the receipt/consumption of the e-media is achieved other than by printing.

19. In a digital content delivery system, a method for performing an attended validation/audit of delivery of e-media, comprising the steps of:

packaging, by the sender/user, the e-media and specifying the level of feedback;  
requesting, by the sender/user, a delivery service to deliver the e-media;  
accessing, by the delivery service, the sender/user account to obtain pertinent information;  
transmitting, by the delivery service, the e-media to the client/receiving party;  
delivering of the e-media to a personal computer/device of the client/receiving party; and

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validating, by the client/receiving party, that the e-media has been received.

20. The method of claim 19 wherein the step of delivering the e-media to a personal computer/device of the client/receiving party includes at least one of:  
5 informing the delivery service that the e-media was delivered; and determining a desired level of delivery validation.

21. The method of claim 19 wherein the step of delivering the e-media to a personal computer/device of the client/receiving party includes at least one of:  
10 informing the delivery service that the e-media was delivered; and verifying utilization by the receiving party.

22. The method of claim 19 wherein the step of validating, by the client/receiving party, that the e-media has been received includes one of:

sending, by the client/receiving party, a biometric signature; and entering a user's encrypted/unencrypted Unique Identifier by the

15 client/consumer/receiving party to indicate that the e-media has been utilized.

23. In a digital content delivery system, a method for performing an unattended validation/audit of delivery of printed e-media, comprising the steps of:

packaging, by the sender/user, the e-media and specifying the level of feedback; receiving, by the delivery service, the e-media delivery

20 request;

accessing, by the delivery service, the sender/user account to obtain pertinent information;

transmitting, by the delivery service, the e-media to the client/receiving party, wherein the client is a software application;

25 delivering of the e-media to a printer of the client/receiving party; and

validating, by the printer of the client/receiving party, that the e-media has been received/consumed.

24. The method of claim 23 wherein the step of transmitting, by the delivery service, the e-media to the client/receiving party includes at least one of:

30 informing the delivery service that the e-media was transmitted; and determining a desired level of delivery validation/audit.

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25. The method of claim 23 wherein the step of delivering the e-media to the printer of the client/receiving party includes at least one of:
- informing the delivery service that the e-media was delivered; and
  - verifying receipt/consumption by the client/receiving party.
- 5 26. The method of claim 23 wherein the step of validating, by the printer of the client/receiving party, that the e-media has been received/consumed includes one of:
- automatically sending, by the printer of the client/receiving party, a biometric signature; and
  - 10 automatically entering a user's encrypted/unencrypted Unique IDentifier by the printer of the client/consumer/receiving party to indicate that the e-media has been received/consumed.
27. In a digital content delivery system, a method for performing an unattended validation/audit of delivery of e-media, comprising the steps of:
- 15 packaging, by the sender/user, the e-media and specifying a level of feedback;
  - requesting, by the sender/user, the delivery service to deliver the e-media;
  - accessing, by the delivery service, the sender/user account to obtain
  - 20 pertinent information;
  - transmitting, by the delivery service, the e-media to a client/receiving party;
  - delivering of the e-media to a consumption device of the client/receiving party; and
  - 25 validating, by the consumption device of the client/receiving party, correct delivery of the e-media.
28. The method of claim 27 wherein the pertinent information includes at least one of:
- a user's encrypted/unencrypted Unique Identifier;
  - 30 identification of the e-media; and
  - a desired level of delivery validation/audit feedback.

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29. The method of claim 27 wherein the step of validating, by the consumption device of the client/receiving party, the correct delivery of the e-media includes validating a user's encrypted/unencrypted Unique Identifier.

30. In a digital content delivery system, a method for performing an unattended validation/audit of delivery of e-media, comprising the steps of:

5 packaging, by the sender, the e-media wherein a client/receiving party specifies a level of feedback;

requesting, by the sender/user, the delivery service to deliver the e-media;

10 accessing, by the delivery service, the sender/user account to obtain pertinent information;

transmitting, by the delivery service, the e-media to the client/receiving party;

15 delivering of the e-media to a consumption device of the client/receiving party; and

validating, by the consumption device of the client/receiving party, correct delivery of the e-media.

31. The method of claim 30 wherein the pertinent information includes at least one of:

20 a user's encrypted/unencrypted Unique Identifier;

identification of the e-media; and

a desired level of delivery validation/audit feedback.

32. The method of claim 30 wherein the step of validating, by the consumption device of the client/receiving party, the correct delivery of the e-media includes

25 validating a user's encrypted/unencrypted Unique Identifier.